

HOUSE RESOLUTION 201
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the congregation of Mt.
Zion Baptist Church for their accomplishments in
the community.

WHEREAS, it is important that the members of this legislative body recognize those
venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their abounding capacity
for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their
communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Nashville comprise one such
group of worshippers, who for over 131 years have blazed a spiritual path of glory, spreading
the Lord's gospel for all to hear; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1866, shortly after the emancipation of African slaves. The first
group of parishioners were led by Jordan Bransford for 24 years in the home of Sister Mary
Cole;

WHEREAS, following Reverend Bransford, the Reverend S.W. Anderson came to lead
the Mt. Zion family, which grew to over 300 members with 12 Sunday School classes; and

WHEREAS, from 1903 until 1923, the leadership of Mt. Zion rested in the hands of
Reverend J.J. Blackshear, Reverend J.M. Mason, Reverend Sandy Matthews, Reverend B.R.
Farrell, Reverend W.R. Christian, and Reverend J.A. Brown, and Reverend D.J. Hull; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend J. W. Pitt came to pastor the church in 1925, and Reverend J.W. Watkins succeeded him, guiding the “Old Ship of Zion” for more years than any other pastor in the history of the church; and

WHEREAS, in the years to follow, Reverend M.P. Turner and Reverend E.W. Roberson served the church with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the church extended a call to it’s youngest son in the ministry, Minister Joseph Warren Walker, III, who at age 24 has guided the Mt. Zion congregation to new heights and an even greater spiritual awareness; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly recognizes those places of worship whose spiritual and community endeavors can only be categorized as exemplary; now therefore; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize the Mt. Zion Baptist Church for their steadfastness in the community and for being a “Ministry on a New Level.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.